

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-54. (Cancelled)

55. (New) A clipping device for clipping tissue in the body of a patient, comprising:

a sheath member to be inserted in the body of the patient;

an actuating wire received in the sheath member so as to be longitudinally movable relative to the sheath member;

a coupling member arranged at a distal end of the actuating wire;

a clip unit having a tissue clip which is adapted to be detachably coupled to the coupling member;

wherein:

the coupling member and the actuating wire are irremovably fixed to each other by press working, so that when the clip is clipping tissue, the coupling member is kept at the distal end of the actuating wire while the clip unit is removed from the coupling member, the coupling member is rendered irreclaimable, and

the coupling member and the actuating wire are prevented from a subsequent inadvertent clip attachment.

56. (New) The clipping device according to claim 55, wherein the coupling member includes a fixing section pressed at the distal end of the actuating wire and a hook in which the clip unit is hooked.

57. (New) The clipping device according to claim 55, further comprising an insertion tube that is fitted over the sheath member and movable longitudinally relative to the sheath member.

58. (New) The clipping device according to claim 57, further comprising a first operation unit mounted in the area of the proximal end of the insertion tube for longitudinally moving the insertion tube relative to the sheath member, as well as a second operation unit for exercising a pulling action on the actuating wire,

wherein the second operation unit is provided with a slider that is coupled to the proximal end of the actuating wire and is guided so as to be slidable in longitudinal direction.

59. (New) The clipping device according to claim 57, wherein the insertion tube is provided with raised portions at its inner surface and/or its outer surface.

60. (New) The clipping device according to claim 55, wherein the clipping device is arranged in a packaging unit.

61. (New) A clipping device for clipping tissue in the body of a patient, comprising;

a sheath member to be inserted in the body of the patient;

an actuating wire received in the sheath member so as to be longitudinally movable relative to the sheath member;

a coupling member arranged at a distal end of the actuating wire;

a clip unit having a tissue clip which is adapted to be detachably coupled to the coupling member;

wherein:

the coupling member and the actuating wire are irremovably fixed to each other by welding, so that when the clip is clipping tissue, the coupling member is kept at the

distal end of the actuating wire while the clip unit is removed from the coupling member, the coupling member is rendered irreclaimable, and

the coupling member and the actuating wire are prevented from a subsequent inadvertent clip attachment.

62. (New) The clipping device according to claim 61, wherein the welding which irremovably fixes the coupling member and the actuating wire is laser welding.

63. (New) The clipping device according to claim 61, further comprising an insertion tube that is fitted over the sheath member and movable longitudinally relative to the sheath member.

64. (New) The clipping device according to claim 63, further comprising a first operation unit mounted in the area of the proximal end of the insertion tube for longitudinally moving the insertion tube relative to the sheath member, as well as a second operation unit for exercising a pulling action on the actuating wire;

wherein the second operation unit is provided with a slider that is coupled to the proximal end of the actuating wire and is guided so as to be slidable in the longitudinal direction.

65. (New) The clipping device according to claim 63, wherein the insertion tube is provided with raised portions at its inner surface and/or its outer surface.

66. (New) The clipping device according to claim 61, wherein the clipping device is arranged in a packaging unit.

67. (New) A clipping device for clipping tissue in the body of a patient, comprising;

a sheath member to be inserted in the body of the patient;

an actuating wire received in the sheath member so as to be longitudinally movable relative to the sheath member;

a coupling member having a hole arranged at a distal end of the actuating wire;

a clip unit having a tissue clip which is adapted to be detachably coupled to the coupling member;

wherein:

the coupling member and the actuating wire are irremovably fixed to each other by hooking the actuating wire in the hole of the coupling member, so that when the clip is clipping tissue, the coupling member is kept at the distal end of the actuating wire while the clip unit is removed from the coupling member, the coupling member is rendered irreclaimable, and

the coupling member and the actuating wire are prevented from a subsequent inadvertent clip attachment.

68. (New) The clipping device according to claim 67, further comprising an operation unit for exercising a pulling action on the actuating wire,

wherein

the actuating wire is turned back in a portion to be hooked in the hole, and

the operation unit is provided with a slider that is coupled to the proximal end of the actuating wire and is guided so as to be slidable in longitudinal direction.

69. (New) The clipping device according to claim 67, further comprising an insertion tube that is fitted over the sheath member and movable longitudinally relative to the sheath member.

70. (New) The clipping device according to claim 69, further comprising a first operation unit mounted in the area of the proximal end of the insertion tube for longitudinally moving the insertion tube relative to the sheath member, as well as a second operation unit for exercising a pulling action on the actuating wire,

wherein the second operation unit is provided with a slider that is coupled to the proximal end of the actuating wire and is guided so as to be slidable in the longitudinal direction.

71. (New) The clipping device according to claim 69, wherein the insertion tube is provided with raised portions at its inner surface and/or its outer surface.

72. (New) The clipping device according to claim 67, wherein the clipping device is arranged in a packaging unit.